

Application Serial No. 10/716,905  
Response to Office Action**RECEIVED  
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Customer No. 01933

MAY 14 2008

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:  
a scan optical system having an image pickup device for  
reading an original mounted on a platen glass; with a scan  
optical system by using an image pickup device, the apparatus  
5 having a function to perform and

a control section for controlling a preliminary original  
reading operation for automatically determining a density of the  
original to be performed before an image the original is read,  
and for controlling a white background level correction operation  
10 of the image pickup device to be performed after the preliminary  
original reading operation;

wherein the preliminary original reading operation is  
performed while the scan optical system is moving from a read  
standby position facing the original to an image read operation  
15 start position; and a white background level correction operation  
of the image pickup device is performed after the preliminary  
original reading operation

wherein the preliminary original reading operation comprises  
obtaining density data of the original; and

20 wherein a result of the white background level correction  
operation by the image pickup device is reflected on the density  
data of the original, thus controlling an original density  
decision.

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2. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the scan optical system performs the reading of the original reading operation is performed after the white background level correction operation by the image pickup device.

3. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image pickup device comprises a CCD sensor.

4. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein ~~an image read by~~ the CCD sensor is converted converts the read original into a digital signal.

Claims 5 and 6 (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the preliminary original reading operation involves comprises reading a part of the original.

8. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the preliminary original reading operation involves comprises detecting a size of the original.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

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10. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, ~~having a function wherein the control section is operable~~ to specify a kind of the original ~~so that a and adjusts the~~ read standby position of the scan optical system ~~may be altered corresponding to correspond~~ to the specified kind of the original.

11. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, ~~having a function wherein the control section is operable~~ to specify a kind of the original ~~so that and adjusts~~ a read region of the preliminary original reading operation ~~may be altered corresponding to correspond~~ to the specified kind of the original.

12. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus for reading an image of a original mounted on a platen glass by scanning the original with a scan optical system using a ~~CCD~~ sensor an image pickup device, wherein:

the apparatus has a function to perform a preliminary original read operation for automatically determining a density of the original before the original image is read; and

preliminary original reading is performed when the scan optical system in an idling state is moving from a read standby position to an image reading operation start position, a white

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background level correction operation of the CDD sensor is performed after original density data are collected by the preliminary original reading operation, and a result of the correction is reflected on the original density data obtained by the preliminary original reading, to control decision of the original density.

13. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 12, wherein if the preliminary original reading operation is performed in a condition where a platen cover is open, detection of a original size in a main scan direction and determination of an original density are performed simultaneously based on image data collected by the preliminary original read operation, and if the preliminary original reading operation is performed in a condition where the platen cover is closed, the original size is detected in a process of the platen cover being closed.

14. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 12, having a preliminary original reading system for performing a preliminary original reading operation independently of a preliminary original reading system for performing the preliminary original read operation when a scan optical system is moving from a read standby position to an image read operation

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start position, thus enabling changing the preliminary original reading systems by setting.

15. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 12, having a function for permitting a user to specify a kind of a original so that the read standby position may be altered in accordance with the specified kind of the original in 5 a condition where the kind of the original is specified, thus changing an original scan region at the time of preliminary original reading.

16. (Original) An image forming apparatus equipped with the image reading apparatus according to claim 12, wherein an image is formed using data of an image read by the image reading apparatus.

17. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the image pickup device comprises a CCD sensor.